Crandall 1902-4 (D)

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SPECIAL ORDER, [1862]

FOR HALF-PAST 1 O'CLOCK, P. M., DEC. 9.

Cv 1902-4 (D)

REPORT

OF THE COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS ON SO MUCH OF MESSAGE NO. 1 OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, AS RELATES TO A CHANGE IN THE SYSTEM OF TAXATION.

The Committee of Ways and Means, to whom was referred so much of the Message No. 1 of his Excellency the Governor, as relates to a change in the system of Taxation,

REPORT:

That they have considered the matter with the attention which its importance demands, and concur in the opinion expressed by his Excellency, "that the system of property valuation, adopted in 1808, be changed to a more equal and just system." The information derived from the recent War Tax of the Confederate States has, to some extent, prepared the minds of the tax-payers to regard the fictitious valuation created by the Act of 1808, as wholly unnecessary in the now condition of the States. The more general cultivation of the Upper Districts, no longer renders it necessary that encouragement should be given for their population by a fictitiously low valuation of their lands, while the character of the products grown upon the alluvial lands of the Lower Districts, will necessarily detain a large number of slaves, the value of which will compensate for the changed assessment of their lands. The Committee therefore apprehend that little danger will be run of affecting the balance of the Constitution, and even if in the popular branch of the General Assembly the Lower Districts were to lose a portion of strength, yet time, and the intermingling which has been produced by the College, the Military Academies, and the facilities afforded by railways for more easy and frequent visitings, has greatly dissipated the jealousy which once existed. Nor could prejudice arise so long as the Legislative authority is vested in two branches, inasmuch as the Senate must be composed of

geographical Election Districts, in contradistinction to the House of Representatives, which is based upon population and taxation.

The value of the lands, slaves, merchandise, bank stocks, railroad and other corporation stocks, and money at interest, amounts to about three hundred and ninety millions of dollars, as appears by the table annexed to the report of the chief collector of the Confederate War Tax. The imposition, therefore, of one-fourth of one per cent upon the real value of these enumerated kinds of property, would produce about nine hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars, which would exceed the State tax of the last year, by over one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars. The Committee, desirous of ascertaining the sense of the General Assembly upon this question, as a guide in its preparation of a Bill to raise supplies, recommend the adoption of the appended resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

WILMOT G. DESAUSSURE, *Chairman*

Resolved, That in the opinion of the General Assembly, the basis of taxation should be *ad valorem* upon the real value of the kinds of property enumerated in the Bill to raise supplies.

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